

## Sermon on the Mount (Part 4)

Matthew 5:38-41 (text v. 41—*And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*)

Jesus states three Kingdom attitudes in these verses:

- Attitude toward personal INJURY (v. 39).
- Attitude toward personal INJUSTICE (v. 40).
- Attitude toward personal INCONVENIENCE (v. 41).

**BACKGROUND:** Roman law stated a Roman soldier could compel a Jew to carry an object for one Roman “mile” (Gk. *millon*)—1000 paces (about 1,520 yards). An example is when Simon of Cyrene was compelled to bear the cross of Jesus.

The Jews hated this law. It was always imposed an **inconvenience**. He had to stop what he was doing... go the mile... then make the return trip. After the first mile, he fulfilled his duty. He would drop what he was carrying and say, "Sir, I've done toted your burden as far as I'm going tote it. Now tote your own load!"

Jesus expressed a different attitude: He said if anyone compels you to go one mile, go a second mile.

It is on the second mile where positive things begin to happen. On the first mile you fulfill an responsibility—On the second mile you form a relationship, and maybe a friendship.

Some have called out text, “the secret of success in a single sentence.” The principle is DO MORE THAN IS EXPECTED—Go BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. Do “double duty.” Do twice as much as you are asked to do.

- The first mile is where **compliance** is shown.
- The second mile is where **character** is built.

A successful businessman was asked the secret of his success. His reply summed up success in three words: "**and then some.**" Successful people are those who do what is expected, "**and then some!**"

### Four responses to a task or job:

- 1) “Get somebody else to do it!” (Moses when God called him).

2) Only do the absolute bare minimum, while complaining to let everyone know you hate every minute of it.

3) Quietly fulfill your duty, without doing one iota more.

4) Do your job with a good attitude, *and then some*. Exceed expectations.

➡ Luke 17:7-10 teaches the same principle— “...*when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*”

You will never be a success if you only do enough to “get by.” But, if you practice “going the second mile,” you will be a success in any area of life—Your education... on your job... in sports... in relationships, etc.

I remember my first “real” job as a “bus-boy” in an upscale restaurant in Detroit. My employer, Leo McGinnis, told me something I’ll never forget. He said, “Al, you’re not working *for me*. You are working for those customers sitting at tables in the dining room. You do everything you can to make sure they have an enjoyable time while they are here.” That really changed my perspective as an employee and helped to be see my job was more than cleaning tables... bussing dirty dishes to the kitchen... and resetting tables for another customer.

➡ Exceeding expectations is a God-like quality. God always does “*exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think*” (Eph. 3:20)..

- God not only turned Moses’ rod into a serpent, but also consumed the magicians rods.
- God not only parted the Red Sea, but also dried up the mud.
- God not only answered by fire on Mt. Carmel, but also licked up the water around the alter.
- God not only feed the 5,000, but also provided 12 baskets full of left overs.
- God not only blesses tithing, but also opens the windows of heaven that you can’t receive all the blessings.

**We need to go the second mile...**

## I. In strengthening MARRIAGE.

➡ Satan is working overtime in wrecking havoc in marriages.

A. **2nd mile in CHARM** / appearance. “If a couple would do after they get married to stay married, what they did before marriage to get married, they’d stay married a whole lot longer than the average couple stays married today.”

B. **2nd mile in COMMUNICATION.**

1. The only way to really get to know your spouse.
2. Communication is to marriage what blood is to the human body.

C. **2nd mile in COMMITMENT.** Too many couples throw in the towel too quickly.

D. **2nd mile in CHARITY.** “*Charity seeketh not her own...*” DEFERENCE! Quit trying to always get your own way and demanding your rights!

1. Husbands—Help with the dishes; iron your shirts.
2. Wives— Go the 2nd mile in saving money.

➡ Are you a 2nd mile Husband... 2nd mile Wife?

## II. In showing MERCY.

➡ Colossians 3:12— *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

A. Example of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

B. Mercy is extending forgiveness (Luke 18:13).

➡ Proverbs 11:17— *The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.*

C. Example of Philemon.

1. The book of Philemon tells of a slave named Onesimus who ran away from his master Philemon. Later Paul lead Onesimus to Christ and sent back to his master.

2. In v. 17 Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus the same way he would receive him—as a partner.
3. Philemon was a "second-mile" Christian (v. 21).
4. Would the apostle Paul be able to say the same things about us? Are we striving to do more than just the bare necessities?
- E. If people would go the 2nd mile showing mercy there would be less church splits; less divorces; and less broken relationships.

➡ Are you going the 2nd mile in showing mercy... to your children... to your spouse... to others.

### III. In serving in MINISTRY.

➡ Colossians 3:23— *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.* Romans 12:11—*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

- A. In witnessing. Tracts; Giving your testimony; G.R.O.W. visitation; sign waving; door-to-door (one more door).
- B. In music ministry— Choir; Specials; Musicians;
- C. In children's ministries— S.S.; Jr. Church; Nursery.
- D. In church maintenance. ILLUS.— Picking up sticks, gum wrappers
- E. In giving —
  1. Macedonians were 2nd mile givers (2 Cor. 8:1-6).
  2. The widow giving her two mites was a 2nd mile giver (Luke 21:1-4).
  3. Example of Mary anointing Jesus with ointment (Mk. 14:3-9).

➡ Are you a 2nd mile Church Member?

### IV. In spiritual MAINTENANCE (Titus 3:8, 14).

- A. PRAYER life. John Hyde; George Mueller;
- B. Bible study.

**SUMMATION:** Why go the 2nd mile? Because Jesus went the 2nd mile.

- He accepted what He didn't deserve.

- He gave more than anyone had a right to expect.
- He went farther than even His disciples thought He would – He paid the ultimate price and went all the way to the Cross.
- He left us an example to follow in His steps.

Are you a 2nd Mile Christian? *And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.* —Matthew 5:41

- I will do more than belong—I will participate.
- I will do more than care—I will help.
- I will do more than believe—I will practice.
- I will do more than pray—I will fast.
- I will do more than teach—I will inspire.
- I will do more than tithe—I will sacrifice.
- I will do more than live—I will grow.
- I will do more than forgive—I will forget.
- I will do more than be fair—I will be merciful.
- I will do more than be friendly—I will be a friend.
- A 2nd mile Christian is never satisfied with only attending church at 10:00 Sunday morning. He'll go the 2nd mile by attending S.S school, Sunday night, and a Life Group.
- A 2nd mile Christian isn't content with reading a chapter a day to keep the devil away. A 2nd mile Christian diligently studies, meditates and memorizes God's Word.

Forget about the second mile for now—Are you even a first Mile Christian? Maybe you are not even doing the minimum let alone going beyond what is expected of you.

Are you a Christian AT ALL?